

FARMERS NOT YET GETTING THEIR DUE

Secretary of Agriculture Sees Some Improvement in Conditions.

FREIGHT PLAYS HAVOC

With Rates Coming Down One Factor of Depression Is Relieved.

LIVE STOCK IMPROVES

Sections Where Dairying Is Carried On Also Survive Hard Knocks.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—Despite a decrease of nearly 50 per cent. in the purchasing power of major grain crops over the average for five pre-war years, Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, expresses the greatest optimism over the future outlook for American agriculture in his annual report to the President. The worst has been passed, he feels, and glowing above the last vestiges of the distressing times the Secretary sees the dawn of a new agricultural era.

The troubles of the American farmer, the Secretary says, are not due entirely to local conditions. The conditions were, in fact, worldwide and an inevitable result of the war. They were to be expected and could have been avoided only by some miraculous transformation. The transition from a period of adversity to one of prosperity already has set in, and it is in the offing that the Secretary sees the bright road to agricultural good times.

Increased freight rates, bumper crops raised in the face of high costs and industrial unemployment are a few of the causes of a lessened buying cited by Mr. Wallace. Also the lack of foreign markets for surplus American agriculture have hampered the farmer's ability to face during the last year. These combined "a vicious circle," the Secretary feels, through which the farmer could not hope to break even by the most judicious use of his lands, and most economical living on the part of himself and his family.

Starving With Plenty Near.

"Had some way been found for the people in need to buy our surplus at prices which would cover the cost of production, the American farmer would have been prosperous and the country would have prospered with him," the Secretary wrote. "It is a terrible indictment of modern civilization that with such abundance here there are millions of people overseas suffering for the bare necessities, and other millions starving to death."

"And surely we are sadly lacking in our understanding of economic laws or in our adjustment to them when the production of bumper crops grown by the hard labor of 13,000,000 farmers and farm workers, and their families is permitted to play such a large part in paralyzing our industries and business at home."

"For that is what has happened. The purchasing power of the principal farm crops of the year 1921 at the present time is lower than ever before known. At times past some of these crops have sold at lower prices per sale unit expressed in dollars and cents, but probably never before have our farmers generally been compelled to export their crops per sale unit for such small amounts of the things they need. The purchasing power of our major grain crops is little more than half what it was on an average for the five pre-war years of 1910-1914, inclusive."

Higher freight rates played havoc among the farmers. The rates nearly doubled in most instances, the Secretary says, and in some it more than doubled.

Freight Rates Great Hardship.

"When wheat was selling at \$2.50 per bushel, corn at \$1.75, cattle and hogs at \$16 and \$22 per hundred, cotton at 40 cents per pound, the increased freight rate was not a serious matter," he continued. "It amounted to but a few cents relatively and was a small item in the total price. But with wheat at \$1, corn at 48 cents, cattle and hogs at \$7 to \$10 per hundred, cotton at 17 to 20 cents (all these being primary market prices, not farm prices), the addition of even 10 cents per bushel or per 100 pounds imposed a burden grievous to be borne. When farm prices are ruinously low any addition to the freight charge means added distress. At the present time the cost of getting some farm products to market is greater than the amount the farmer receives himself in net return. And the heaviest freight burden naturally falls on those farmers who live in our great surplus producing States."

And again, the Secretary says, the farmer of the surplus producing State must compete, despite the high freight rates, in the heavy consuming markets of the East with the foreign producer and the farmer who has but a short haul to market. Foreign producers have the benefit of cheap water transportation, and "in many cases can lay down

their products on our Eastern coast more cheaply than our own people can ship their products to the same points by rail."

Brighter Side of Picture.

Continuing, the Secretary says: "Fortunately, there is a brighter side to the picture I have presented. Prices for live stock are much higher relatively than prices for grains. In the case of corn, for example, which is our largest grain crop, the farmer is receiving very much more for this grain when fed to hogs and cattle and sheep and marketed in that form than he is receiving for his corn crop when marketed as corn. Speaking generally, about 80 per cent. of our corn crop is fed to live stock, and those farmers who have maintained their livestock production are not suffering so severely as might be indicated by the prices of grain. The prices of dairy products also are higher relatively than the price of grains and feeds, and in these sections where dairying is practiced there is a steady income and the farmers are getting along."

"The cotton crop of 1920 was large, and when the foreign outlet was so restricted prices dropped far below the cost of production. The situation was so serious throughout the cotton States that the bankers, merchants and business men generally joined with the farmers to bring a reduction in the acreage in 1921. This effort was successful, and the acreage was reduced about 28 per cent. The crop was still further shortened by the ravages of the boll weevil, so that the final figures will indicate a reduction of nearly 50 per cent. below last year's production. When this situation became known there was a rapid advance in the price of cotton."

"The price doubled within a period of a few weeks. The effect was beneficial not only to the cotton planters and others who held old cotton, but to all business interests in the South, and reports from that section have been much more hopeful during the last two months."

Relief Efforts in Congress.

Never before, Mr. Wallace says, has Congress given more serious attention to the needs of the farm. The measures enacted are touched upon by the Secretary as follows:

"All of this legislation is of a constructive character and will be more helpful than is now realized. Concerning the efforts to make easier credit conditions, there is this to be remembered: Better prices for the crops the farmers have to sell and lower prices for the things he has to buy are far more needed than an opportunity to go further in debt. Easier credit will be helpful mainly in enabling the farmer to tide over this period of severe stress without being compelled to sacrifice his live stock and crops and without losing his farm."

"Money made available through the new facilities provided by legislation should be used mainly for carrying loans on which payment is demanded and for buying live stock to consume the surplus crops. If loan companies and insurance companies which hold farm mortgages will freely grant extensions of payment of both principal and interest, that will help conditions very much, and they can do this without danger of loss."

"As is always the case in such periods of depression many well meaning men come forward with ill considered measures. Visionary schemes of all kinds are proposed. Some would have the Government take charge of the larger business enterprises; others would have the Government undertake to fix prices either arbitrarily or indirectly by buying up surplus crops. The experience of 5,000 years shows the impracticability of such efforts."

Calls for Research Work.

"Much is to be hoped for from the agricultural inquiry which has been under way since midsummer by a joint committee of the Senate and House. The department has aided this committee in every way possible, and especially by preparing a great mass of statistics bearing on the economics of agriculture. The result of the committee's studies should be very helpful in enabling us to plan wisely in the future."

Concluding a resume of the work of his department Mr. Wallace cites a need for more research work. There are 2,500 investigations being made and the Secretary emphasized the advisability of Congress granting permission for the combining of three important branches into one bureau. These are the Bureau of Markets, the Bureau of Crop Estimates and the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics. Mr. Wallace would combine these into a bureau of agricultural economics. Preparation for such an amalgamation has been going on for several months, he says.

"When finally we emerge from the present distressing period we shall find ourselves at the beginning of a new agricultural era," he continued. "Therefore we have produced more food products than were needed by our own people. We had land in abundance and of great fertility. Our population is increasing rapidly. We have taken up most of our easily cultivated land. We are not far from the time when homes will require practically all that we produce in the average year. This means a more intensive agriculture, with a larger production an acre and lessened cost if we are to meet foreign competition and still maintain our standards of living."

BIRTH CONTROL FLAYED BY ARCHBISHOP CURLEY

Advocates Referred To as Body of Degenerates.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 11.—Advocates of birth control were assailed by Archbishop Michael J. Curley this afternoon. "The married state is sacred and it has its duties and its rights," the Archbishop declared. "But there is a body of people, male and female degenerates, who would fly in the face of God, the Creator, and make life on great sin and orgy of passion."

Catholic parents who fail to do their duty as parents, who tamper with the laws of nature in the married state, who, through selfishness or lack of society or lack of trust in Providence, snuff out the lives of unborn children, are guilty of the gravest crimes and sins against God Almighty."

EUROPE ON MEND, DECLARES HOOVER

Economic Recovery Progresses, Though Situation Contains Great Dangers.

ONE IS PAPER CURRENCY

Most Perilous Condition Is in Germany, Whose Affairs Need Sound Adjustment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The economic recovery of Europe, while necessarily slow and difficult, is making substantial progress, Secretary Hoover declared in a review of international trade conditions, made public to-night. The situation "contains great dangers," he said, but it is "not at all as gloomy as some statements would make it appear."

"A survey of European conditions," he continued, "will show that the danger of Bolshevism is past, partly through improved standards of life and partly through the salutary lesson to Russia. The one field of continuous degeneration," he declared to be that of Government finance, citing as factors "unbalanced budgets and consequent currency inflation." The "merchandise of the whole world, the Secretary said, suffers from this failure in

Government finance, and unless remedies are found the great recuperation affected in social, political, industrial, agricultural and commercial life will be endangered."

Most Dangerous Situation.

The most dangerous of the unbalanced inflation situations, Mr. Hoover said, is Germany, whose case "depends upon the method and volume of reparation payments."

"As the United States does not participate either in its control or its receipts," he added, "we have no voice or right to interfere. It is earnestly to be hoped that the present negotiations upon reparation may succeed in finding a sound basis that will secure permanent economic and political stability to Germany and certainty of regular payment to the Allies. With this effected the way is open for constructive consideration of the situations in other States."

"The American people have never been and will not be remiss in participation in these further measures, but our people cannot successfully enter until those who have control of the reparations have settled this major issue upon so sound an economic basis that we can look upon the future of Europe with confidence."

Encouraging Outlook.

"Outside of the Government finance of a limited number of States the outlook is very encouraging. Democratic institutions are gaining strength among the 150,000,000 people formerly supporting autocracies. In Russia itself extreme Communism is slowly boiling to death in a caldron of starvation and its leaders freely acknowledge its failure."

"In the field of international political relations, aside from conflict in Turkey, Communism is slowly boiling to death in a caldron of starvation and its leaders freely acknowledge its failure."

lary offensive. There are bright prospects of limitation in naval armament. Agreed limitations in land armament are not very hopeful, but the economic pressure of taxes and unbalanced budgets is slowly disarming Europe and it will disarm more of them yet. The number of men under arms has decreased by fully a million in the past twelve months.

"In the field of economic life and progress of agricultural and industrial production year by year since the war is very marked. Famine has disappeared from Europe except in Russia. Populations have fairly settled to work and industrial efficiency and productivity are being steadily restored. Generally, there is progress and the problems yet to be solved are being steadily narrowed and their solutions better understood."

AMERICAN BIRTH RATE TAKES A NEW SPURT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The American birth rate advanced 1.4 per cent. in 1920, as compared with 1919, the Census Bureau announced to-day.

The birth rate was 23.7 per cent. per 1,000 population last year, as compared with 22.3 per cent. in 1919, according to the bureau's figures. The rate last year, however, was 1.3 per cent. below the rate of 1916, which the bureau declared may be looked upon as a more normal year, as it preceded the influenza epidemic and the entrance of the United States into the war.

The highest birth rate for the white population last year was reported for North Carolina, with 31.7 per cent., and the lowest for California, with 18.3 per cent. The highest rates for the "colored" population, which in the bureau's classification includes negroes, Indians, Chinese and Japanese, were 39.5 and 39.3 per cent., for Washington and California respectively.

WOUNDED WOMAN DIES; BOARDER IS ARRESTED

Mrs. Louis Stone Had Been Shot at Card Party.

HORNELL, N. Y., Dec. 11.—Mrs. Louis Stone died in the City Hospital to-day thirty-six hours after she was shot down while attending a card party at a neighbor's home.

Hugh H. Bray of New York, for the last four years a boarder at the Stone home, will be arraigned to-morrow morning on a charge of murder, first degree. He was overpowered in the house where the shooting occurred. It is alleged he shot Mrs. Stone, another of the guests.

Bray is said to have insisted he did not intend to kill Mrs. Stone, but only to scare her.

HUNTERS DOUBLED IN STATE.

Abundance of Game Testified in Sale of Licenses.

ALBANY, Dec. 11.—An unusual abundance of game in the State this year caused an exceptionally heavy demand for hunting licenses, the Conservation Commission made known to-night. Revenues from licenses were nearly 100 per cent. greater than during a corresponding period last year and larger than any preceding year since organization of the commission.

For the five months ending November 30, Conservation Commissioner Ellis J. Staley turned into the State Treasury \$175,962 as the receipts from licenses, sale of trees, fines and penalties. This was an increase of \$59,520 over the receipts for the corresponding months last year.

DRINK
a Glass of
MILK
this
NOON

DAIRYMEN'S LEAGUE
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
UTICA, N. Y.



Electric Sewing Machine
(Portable)
From \$39



Electric Chafing Dish
From \$16



Christmas Tree Lights
(8 Lamps)
From \$3.75



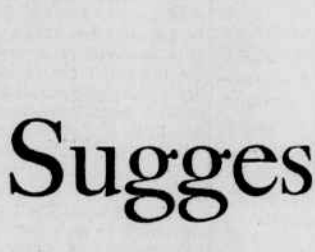
Electric Tea Pot
From \$12.50



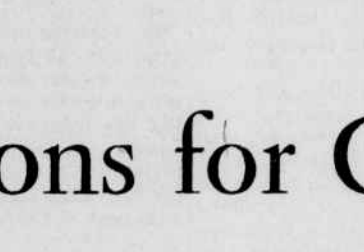
Electric Dishwasher
From \$99



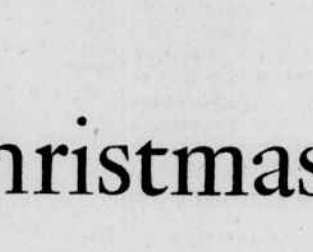
Electric Vibrator
From \$10.50



Electric Vacuum Cleaner
From \$45



Electric Waffle Iron
From \$16.50



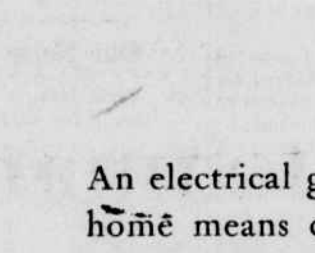
Electric Toaster
From \$6



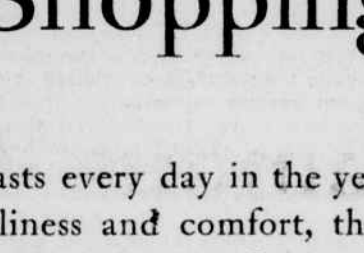
Electric Iron
From \$5



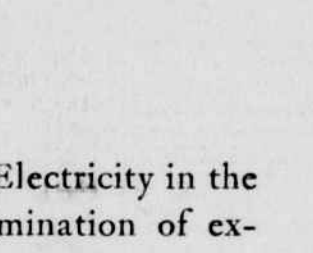
Electric Percolator
From \$10



Electric Refrigerator
From \$550



Electric Lamps
From \$5



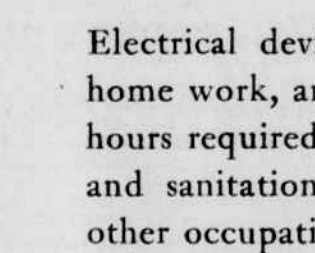
Electric Milk Warmer
From \$10.50



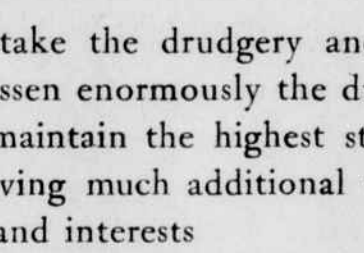
Electric Toy Trains
From \$7



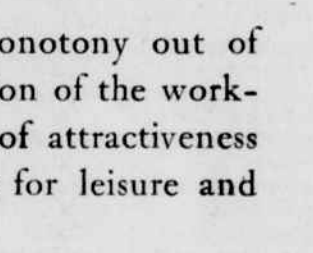
Electric Immersion Heater
From \$4



Electric Automobile
From \$1200



Electric Hair Dryer
From \$16.50



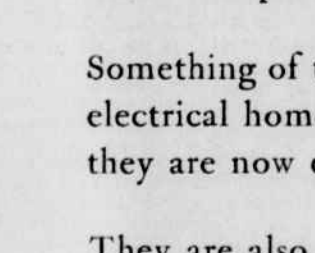
Electric Washing Machine
From \$100



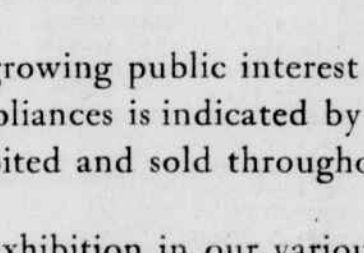
Electric Radiant Heater
From \$8.50



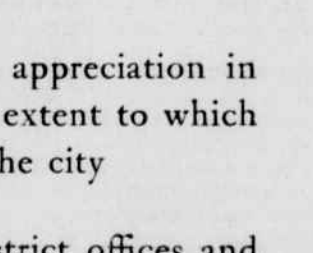
Electric Grill
From \$12.50



Electric Heating Pad
From \$4.25



Electric Dishwasher
From \$99



Electric Vibrator
From \$10.50



Electric Chafing Dish
From \$16

Suggestions for Christmas Shopping

An electrical gift lasts every day in the year. Electricity in the home means cleanliness and comfort, the elimination of exhausting labor, and the solution of the servant problem

Electrical devices take the drudgery and monotony out of home work, and lessen enormously the duration of the work-hours required to maintain the highest state of attractiveness and sanitation, leaving much additional time for leisure and other occupations and interests

Something of the growing public interest and appreciation in electrical home appliances is indicated by the extent to which they are now exhibited and sold throughout the city

They are also on exhibition in our various district offices and will be gladly demonstrated to anyone without the slightest obligation to make a purchase

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General Offices: Irving Place and 15th Street

Branch Offices where Electrical Appliances are displayed and demonstrated for the convenience of the public

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10 Irving Place corner 15th St
124 West 42d St bet B'way & 6th Ave

151 East 86th St
bet Lexington & 3rd Aves

15 East 125th St near 5th Ave
362 East 149th St near Courtlandt Ave
555 Tremont Ave cor Monterey Ave

All offices (except Irving Place) open evenings

OPPORTUNITY

Will knock at your door Tomorrow when the five day sale of IMPORTED ART GOODS and NOVELTIES begins at the WILSON-ASTORIA, for the benefit of the

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seize it. You can select from beautiful Florentine Hand Tooled Leathers, Venetian Glass, French Lamps, Hand Embroidered Linens, Negligees, Gloves, Candy, Baskets, etc.

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The date is December 13th to 17th. Opportunity knocks!

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